

APPLICANT(S): SREEKUMARAN NAIR,  
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#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for the preparation of adsorbent compositions for removing pesticides like chlorpyrifos, malathion and other organo halogen/sulphur pesticides comprising metallic gold/silver nanoparticles having a size which is up to 150 nm deposited on activated alumina and/or magnesia, wherein said metallic gold/silver nanoparticles are prepared by:
  - (a) diluting silver nitrate or  $\text{HAuCl}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in water to form a solution;
  - (b) heating the solution from step (a);
  - (c) adding a sodium citrate solution to the solution from step (b);
  - (d) heating the solution from step (c) to produce a solution containing silver or gold nanoparticles;
  - (e) ~~loading silver and gold nanoparticles on~~ soaking activated alumina and/or activated magnesia ~~from a~~ in the solution ~~under wet conditions from step (d) to produce activated alumina and/or activated magnesia loaded with gold or silver nanoparticles~~; and
  - (f) washing the loaded activated alumina and/or activated magnesia from step (e) with distilled water ~~under wet conditions~~.
2. **(Cancelled)**
3. **(Currently amended)** A method according to claim 1, wherein said activated alumina and/or magnesia are in the various forms such as globules and powder forms.
4. **(Currently amended)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the loaded activated alumina and/or activated magnesia particles from step (f) ~~metallic silver and gold nanoparticles~~ are baked with activated carbon.

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5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in step (d) the heating continues until the solution turns to pale yellow for silver and wine red for gold.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in step (b) the heating continues until boiling.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the ~~metallic silver and gold nanoparticles~~ loaded activated alumina and/or activated magnesia particles from step (f) are baked with activated carbon at 120<sup>0</sup>C.